

## Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 284960

FOR EA ONLY, MANILA POUCH CEBU

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/PHL - BENJAMIN A. FLECK

### 1. REACTIONS TO AQUINO VERDICT (CONFIDENTIAL)

ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, CAROLYN CHRISTIAN ATTENDED A MEETING CHAIRED BY MARK SCHNEIDER OF HA, WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GROUPS CRITICAL OF THE PHILIPPINE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION: SEVERINA RIVERA AND ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE, JANE LEIPER (NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES), AND ED SNYDER (QUAKERS). THEIR IMMEDIATE INTEREST WAS, OF COURSE, THE AQUINO VERDICT. THEY PROFESSED CONCERN THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE MIGHT BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE  
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A PROTEST COULD BE ORGANIZED, OR THAT AQUINO MIGHT BE SINGLED OUT FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE WHILE BUSCAYNO ("CDR. DANTE") AND CORPUZ WERE IGNORED. THEY WERE TOLD THAT WE DID NOT EXPECT THESE SENTENCES TO BE CARRIED OUT AND FORESAW APPEALS TO THE SUPREME COURT, WITH POSSIBLY AN EVENTUAL PRESIDENTIAL PARDON, COMMUTATION, OR EXILE. SCHNEIDER CONFIRMED THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING

THE VERDICT HAD REFERRED ONLY TO AQUINO (SINCE HE WAS THE ONLY ONE ABOUT WHOM A QUESTION HAD BEEN ASKED), BUT SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK INTO OUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE EMBASSY TO KNOW IF THE CASES OF BUSCAYNO AND CORPUZ WERE ALSO BEING STUDIED.

RIVERA WANTED TO KNOW WHAT ACTIONS THE U.S. PLANNED TO TAKE TO AVERT THE CARRYING-OUT OF THE EXECUTIONS OR THE CONTINUATION OF THE "UNJUST" JUDICIAL SYSTEM. SHE SUGGESTED SUSPENSION OF ALL DISCUSSION OF GIVING AID TO THE PHILIPPINES UNTIL AQUINO, BUSCAYNO, AND CORPUZ (AND BY INFERENCE ALL OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS) WERE TRIED FAIRLY IN CIVILIAN COURTS AND PROVIDED ALL THE PROTECTIONS OF DUE PROCESS OF LAW. SCHNEIDER EXPLAINED THE DILEMMA THAT WOULD THEN FACE THE U.S.: IN EFFECT WE WOULD HAVE GIVEN AN ADVANCE GUARANTEE THAT AID CONSIDERATIONS WOULD PROCEED EXPEDITIOUSLY AND FAVORABLY ONCE A CIVILIAN COURT'S VERDICT, ANY VERDICT, HAD BEEN HANDED DOWN. BUT, HE ASKED, IF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS VULNERABLE TO MARCOS' INFLUENCE, WHY WOULD A CIVIL TRIAL BE ANY FAIRER THAN A MILITARY TRIBUNAL? HILL DID CONFIRM THAT THE USG WAS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH MARCOS THROUGH AMBASSADOR NEWSOM, BUT HE ASKED THEM TO KEEP THIS CONFIDENTIAL.

AT 2:15 P.M. I WAS NOTIFIED BY SY THAT A SMALL DEMONSTRATION WAS IN PROGRESS AT THE DIPLOMATIC ENTRANCE AND THAT  
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THE DEMONSTRATORS HAD SAID THEIR LEADERS WERE INSIDE TALKING TO THE PHILIPPINE DESK. I IMMEDIATELY ALERTED HILL AND SCHNEIDER WHO THEREUPON QUERIED THEIR GUESTS. RIVERA READILY ADMITTED THAT SHE, LEIPER, AND SNYDER MUST BE THE GROUP REFERRED TO AND SAID THE PROTESTERS KNEW OF THE MEETING THROUGH HER. SNYDER AND LEIPER IMMEDIATELY DISASSOCIATED THEMSELVES FROM ANY DEMONSTRATION TAKING PLACE AND FROM ANY OVERT ANTI-MARCOS ACTIVITY. SNYDER MADE IT CLEAR TO RIVERA THAT HE STRONGLY DISAPPROVED OF HER MACHINATIONS TO LINK A DEMONSTRATION WITH THE MEETING. LEIPER STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT SHE WAS THERE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS, NOT WITH POLITICAL ACTIVITY. HILL THEN EXPLAINED THAT THE DEMONSTRATION PUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND USG IN A MORE DIFFICULT POSITION, THAT WHILE WE CAN BE OPENLY SYMPATHETIC TO HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGNS AROUND THE WORLD AND INDEED ARE SO, WE CANNOT PERMIT THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE CONDONING OR CONSPIRING IN ACTIVITY AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF ANOTHER NATION. SNYDER AND LEIPER MAY IN THE FUTURE BE MORE WARY OF RIVERA; WE WILL BE.

AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE TELEPHONED TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE AQUINO VERDICT HAVE BEEN JERRY COHEN, MORTON HAMBURG, AND ROBERT TRENT JONES.

2. LOPEZ/OSMENA MIGRATION COMPLETED (UNCLASSIFIED)

UPON ARRIVAL IN LOS ANGELES ON NOVEMBER 23, MRS. EUGENIO LOPEZ, JR., AND MRS. AUGUSTO ALMEDA-LOPEZ, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE CHILDREN, APPLIED TO INS FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES. THEY WERE IMMEDIATELY PAROLED IN, PENDING A HEARING ON NOVEMBER 25. AT THAT HEARING, THEY WERE TOLD THAT THEY WOULD RECEIVE FORMAL LETTERS OF NOTIFICATION THIS WEEK THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ADMITTED IN THE SAME REFUGEE STATUS AS THEIR HUSBANDS. FINIS.

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3. AMBASSADOR DEL ROSARIO ADDRESSES PHILIPPINE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

JIM SARTORIUS ATTENDED A MEETING OF THE PHILIPPINE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN NEW YORK CITY ON NOVEMBER 28, WHICH WAS ADDRESSED BY RAMON V. DEL ROSARIO, THE NEW PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR FOR THE PROMOTION OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT. ROSARIO DWELT ON THE QUESTION "IF IN FACT THERE IS TO BE A DECREASE OF THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, SHOULD THIS NOT BE COMPENSATED BY AN INCREASE -- CERTAINLY NOT A DECREASE -- OF THE U.S. ECONOMIC PRESENCE IN OUR PART OF THE WORLD?" AFTER RECOUNTING PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC PROGRESS OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS, AND DESCRIBING THE RATIONALE OF ASEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AS THAT OF A COMBINED POPULATION OF AROUND 250 MILLION PEOPLE OFFERING A MARKET PROVIDING ECONOMIES OF SCALE FOR INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS, THE AMBASSADOR INVITED AMERICAN COMPANIES TO CONSIDER THE PHILIPPINES AS THE BASE FOR ENTRY INTO ASEAN.

DEL ROSARIO WENT ON TO SUGGEST A SCENARIO FOR A JOINT PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN TOWARD CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESS OF THE ASEAN PROGRAM. SPECIFICALLY, HE PROPOSED THAT THE CHAMBER CREATE AN ASEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO GATHER DATA AND HOLD SEMINARS. OF BROADER SCOPE, HE OFFERED FOR CONSIDERATION THE ORGANIZATION OF AN ASEAN-AMERICAN COUNCIL TO BE COMPOSED OF ALL BUSINESS GROUPS IN NEW YORK INTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ASEAN REGION. PICKING UP A PROPOSAL EMANATING FROM MANILA LAST SUMMER, HE SUGGESTED THAT HE WOULD ARRANGE FOR A DIALOGUE IN NEW YORK AS WELL AS IN MANILA BETWEEN AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND THE "LEADERS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR FROM THE FIVE ASEAN COUNTRIES -- JUST AS HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE IN BRUSSELS AND

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RECENTLY IN AUSTRALIA."

COMMENT: THE CHAMBER WILL PROBABLY TAKE UP THE AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN ASEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, BUT WHETHER IT INTENDS TO TAKE THE LEAD IN FORMING AN ASEAN-AMERICAN COUNCIL IS OPEN TO QUESTION. HOW OR WHETHER DEL ROSARIO CAN MAKE A FULL-TIME JOB OUT OF HIS PRESENT ASSIGNMENT REMAINS SOMETHING OF A MINOR MYSTERY. NEITHER IN HIS PRESENTATION TO THE CHAMBER, NOR DURING PRIVATE CONVERSATION DID HE DEFINE OR CLARIFY HIS ROLE AS SPECIAL EMISSARY TO ENCOURAGE AMERICAN INVESTMENT AND TRADE WITH THE PHILIPPINES. EXPECTING TO SPEND MOST OF HIS TIME IN NEW YORK, THE AMBASSADOR HAS YET TO VISIT WASHINGTON.

4. PLEASE NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION.

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## Message Attributes

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